Bangash, Pratap Nagar, Rampura, Shakur Basti, Mangol Puri; Subzi Mandi to Holambi Kalan via Shakti Nagar, Azadpur, Naya Azadpur, Transport Nagar, Badli, Khera Kalan, Ambedkar Colony; and under ground rail from Central Secretariat to Vishwa Vidyalaya via. Connaught Place, New/Old Delhi Railway Station, I.S.B.T. and Old Secretariat. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4860 crores (at April, 96 prices). The project is proposed to be completed within nine years from 1.4.1996.

*[English]*

**REC Aid to Maharashtra**

2725. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the projects financed by REC in Maharashtra and funds sought, released and actually utilised by the State during the last three years, year-wise and project-wise;

(b) whether non-release or delay in release of funds has affected implementation of these projects;

(c) if so, the action taken to ensure timely and adequate release of funds to the executing agency; and

(d) the number and names of projects cleared and under consideration for financial support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides financial assistance to Maharashtra State Electricity Board for the intensive electrification of already electrified villages, energisation of pumpsets and improvements in the power systems of rural areas under various categories of projects. The Planning Commission allocates funds every year for rural electrification in accordance with the proposals of the States. The Planning Commission allocation and the amount disbursed by REC to Maharashtra State under its various categories of sanctioned schemes for the last three years is given hereunder :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Year | Allocation | Amount disbursed by REC |
|---|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 4650 | 5647 |
| 1994-95 | 6254 | 9299 |
| 1995-96 | 6330 | 9730 |

The amount disbursed by REC to Maharashtra State has been fully utilised.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, it does not arise.

(d) REC has allocated for Maharashtra in 1996-97, Rs. 6700 lakhs for the programmes of System Improvement, Pumpset Energisation and Load Intensification. These schemes are being sanctioned by REC, in accordance with the requirements of MSEB and as approved by Planning Commission, so as to ensure full utilisation of the funds.

*[Translation]*

**Employment Guarantee Scheme**

2726. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced any employment Guarantee scheme for the betterment of the people living below the poverty line in rural areas;

(b) whether there is any instruction in this scheme to make payment to the beneficiaries only after they have done their fifty percent work;

(c) whether the beneficiaries are capable of completing their fifty percent work without any prior payment;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to make advance payment to the beneficiaries against the quantum of work they have done; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have introduced Employment Assurance Scheme for providing wage employment during lean agricultural season to the rural poor.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. There are instructions that the wages should be paid weekly, preferably on the local market day.

(e) Does not arise.

**Drinking Water**

2727. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of rural population provided the facilities of drinking water and sanitation during 1985, 1990 and 1997;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the sanitation facilities in rural areas; and

(c) the extent to which the non-Government organisations have been involved in rendering assistance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The percentage of rural population provided with the Water Supply and

sanitation facilities under Rural Water Supply Programme and Rural Sanitation Programme during the years 1985-86, 1989-90 and 1996-97 (upto January, 1997) is 3.11%, 4.28% and 2.62% respectively.

(b) The sanitation facilities in rural areas are being improved under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme, the Minimum Needs Programme, Indira Awas Yojana, Externally aided projects etc. The emphasise is given on generation of felt need, people's participation, limiting the subsidy to 80% for persons below the poverty line for individual household latrines, setting up of production Centres, sanitary marts, developing model villages, exclusive sanitary complexes for women and provision of other sanitation facilities ultimately aiming an integrated approach to rural sanitation.

(c) Assistance is provided to Non-Government Organisations (NGAs) through the Council for Advancement of People Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.

**Declining in Ground Water Level**

2728. SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ground water level has been declining constantly in Plateau regions of Madhya Pradesh and due to which hand pumps set up in villages have become useless;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to maintain drinking water system in such areas and to check the decline in ground water level;

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sent any Ground Water Promotion Scheme to the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment; and

(d) if so, the time by which the schemes are likely to be cleared/provided Central assistance on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State of Madhya Pradesh had identified dark and grey areas of the State on the basis of percentage of over exploitation of ground water and depletion thereof. Water conservation and recharge schemes have accordingly been prepared and submitted to Government of India. The State Government has established Rajiv Gandhi Water Shed Mission to take water conservation, Soil conservation and recharge measures through scientific methods in drought prone areas of the State. Work has been initiated in 2000 villages of 440 mini water sheds of 340 blocks under Drought Prone Areas Programme.

(c) Yes, Sir. The State Government has submitted 9 schemes estimated to cost Rs. 3536.98 lakh.

(d) The State Government have been requested to revise the schemes, and the same, will be considered for clearance on their receipt.

*[English]*

**Assam Gas Cracker Project**

2729. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether urgent steps are being taken to dispose of all the pending issues to start the implementation of the gas cracker project before the onset of monsoons;

(b) if so, whether such a step would go a long way in increasing the favour of the people of Assam to the Government; and

(c) if so, by what time the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Employment Schemes in Andhra Pradesh**

2730. SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of ongoing employment schemes in the Urban Areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the total number of mandays created in the Urban Areas of the State till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Two Centrally sponsored urban employment schemes, namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP), are being implemented in the country including Andhra Pradesh. Under NRY, the Schemes of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Scheme for Urban Wage Employment (SUWE) are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh for providing self employment and wage employment opportunities respectively to the urban poor living below poverty line. PMI UPEP has as one of its many components self employment through setting up of micro enterprises.

(b) Under NRY, 20.44 lakh of mandays of work was generated under SUWE till 28.02.97.

There is no specific wage-labour employment component in PMI UPEP.